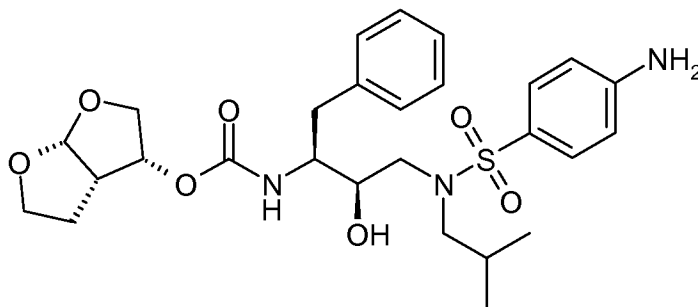


AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

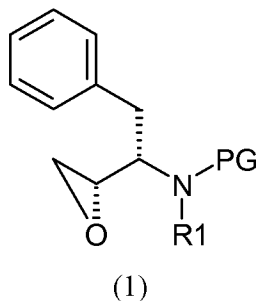
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned application.

1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing compound of formula (6),



or an addition salt, thereof; comprising:

- (i) introducing an isobutylamino group in compound of formula (1)



wherein

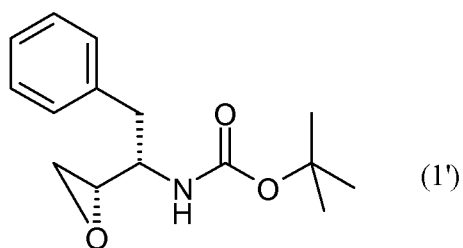
PG represents an amino-protecting group;

R₁ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

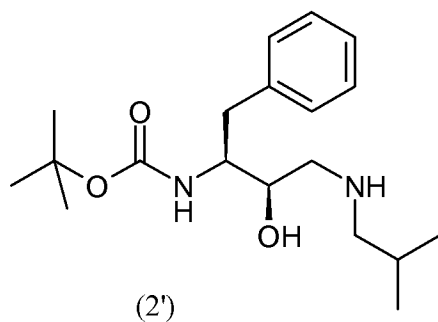
- (ii) introducing a p-nitrophenylsulfonyl group in the resultant compound of step (i);
(iii) reducing the nitro moiety of the resultant compound of step (ii);
(iv) deprotecting the resultant compound of step (iii); and
(v) coupling the resultant compound of step (iv) with a (3R,3aS,6aR)-hexahydrofuro [2,3-b] furan-3-yl derivative .

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 for preparing compound of formula (6), comprising the steps of:

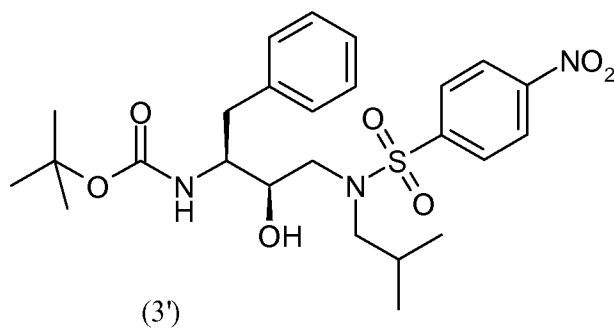
- (i) introducing an isobutylamino group in compound of formula (1');



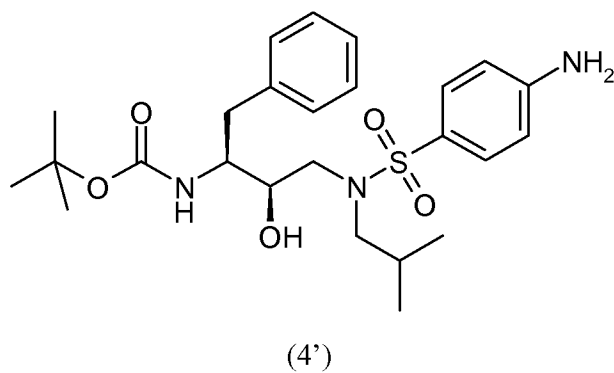
to obtain compound of formula (2');



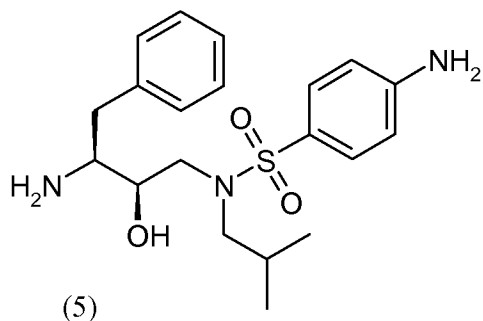
(ii) introducing a p-nitrophenylsulfonyl group into compound of formula (2') to obtain compound of formula (3');



(iii) reducing the nitro moiety of compound of formula (3') to obtain compound of formula (4');



(iv) deprotecting compound of formula (4') to obtain compound of formula (5)



coupling compound of formula (5) with (3R,3aS,6aR)-hexahydrofuro [2,3-b] furan-3-yl derivative to obtain compound of formula (6).

3. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein step (i) is carried out in toluene.
4. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein step (ii) is carried out in toluene, ethylacetate, methylene chloride, dichloromethane, or tetrahydrofuran.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein step (iii) is carried out in the presence of up to 10 mol % primary or secondary amine, [[.]]with palladium on charcoal under a hydrogen atmosphere.
6. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein step (iv) is carried out in acidic or basic conditions.
7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein compound of formula (5) is crystallized by dissolving in a solvent system, adjusting the pH to a value higher than 9 and keeping the concentration of compound of formula (5) in solution in a value between 4% and 15% (w/w).
8. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein compound of formula (5) is crystallized at a temperature between 0°C and 10°C.
9. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 7 wherein seed crystals of compound of formula (5) are added during crystallization.
10. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 7 wherein the solvent system comprises one or more water-miscible solvents and water.

11. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 7 wherein the solvent system comprises one or more water-immiscible solvents and water.
12. (Original) A process according to claim 10 wherein the solvent system is methanol, isopropanol, and water in a ratio 1:6.5:8 respectively.
13. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein (3R,3aS,6aR)-hexahydrofuro [2,3-b] furan-3-ol is reacted with bis-(4-nitrophenyl)carbonate before coupling to compound of formula (5).
14. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein (3R,3aS,6aR)-hexahydrofuro [2,3-b] furan-3-ol is reacted with disuccinimidyl carbonate before coupling to compound of formula (5).
15. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 13 wherein the reaction of (3R,3aS,6aR)-hexahydrofuro [2,3-b] furan-3-ol and the carbonic acid derivative is activated by an (amine-) base[[, e]].
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein step (i) is carried out in toluene.
20. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5 wherein the amine is ethanolamine.
21. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 15 wherein the (amine-) base is triethylamine or pyridine.